

California Field Crop Review



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CALIFORNIA FIELD CROP PRICES - FEBRUARY 2003

Mid-February prices received by California farmers increased from January for dry edible beans. Mid-February prices for all potatoes, winter potatoes, and all types of hay were below the previous month. Fall potatoes and cottonseed remained the same as the previous month. Mid-month prices for wheat and Upland cotton lint were not published to avoid possible disclosure of individual operations. Prices were above a year earlier for dry edible beans, winter potatoes, and fall potatoes. All potatoes, all types of hay, and cottonseed were below February 2002's level.

U.S. FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX UNCHANGED FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in February is 99, based on 1990-92=100, unchanged from the January index. Higher prices for cattle, hogs, corn, and soybeans offset lower prices for tomatoes, broilers, wheat, and eggs. The seasonal changes in the mix of commodities farmers sell also effects the overall index. Increased marketings of cattle, broilers, eggs, and strawberries offset decreased marketings of corn, soybeans, wheat, and oranges.

The February All Crops Index is 103, unchanged from January, but 1 percent above February 2002. From February, index increases for feed grains and hay, cotton, oil-bearing crops, and fruits and nuts offset decreases for food grains, tobacco, and commercial vegetables. The index remains unchanged for potatoes and dry beans and other crops.

The February Food Grains Index, at 106, is down 8.6 percent from the previous month, but 25 percent above February 2002. The February all wheat price, at \$123.67 per ton, is down \$6.00 from January, but \$29.34 above February 2002.

The February Feed Grains & Hay Index is 107, up 1.9 percent from last month and 18 percent above February 2002. The corn price, at \$83.93 per ton, is up 72 cents from January and \$15.00 above February 2002. The all hay price, at \$91.80 per ton, is \$1.10 below January, but 10 cents above last February. Grain sorghum, at \$4.15 per cwt., is up three cents from January and 89 cents above February last year.

The February Cotton Index, at 74, is up 1.4 percent from January and 61 percent above February 2002. The February price, at 44.8 cents per pound, is up 0.8 cents from the previous month and 16.8 cents above last February.

The February Potatoes & Dry Beans Index, at 108, is unchanged from January, but 18 percent below February 2002. The all potato price, at \$6.53 per cwt., is down 14 cents from January and 81 cents below last February. The all dry bean price, at \$16.30 per cwt., is down 10 cents from the previous month and \$9.80 below February 2002.

FARM PRICES: AVERAGE PRICE RECEIVED BY FARMERS 1/

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Commodity	Unit	CALIFORNIA			UNITED STATES		
		February 2002	January 2003	February 2003	February 2002	January 2003	Feb. 15, 2003
		Dollars					
Corn 2/	Ton	---	---	---	68.93	83.21	83.93
Wheat 2/	Ton	3/	3/	3/	94.33	129.67	123.67
Oats 2/	Ton	---	---	---	119.38	128.13	126.25
Barley 2/	Ton	3/	3/	124.58	90.42	118.75	118.75
Sorghum Grain 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	3.26	4.12	4.15
Rice 2/	Cwt.	---	---	---	4.16	4.29	4.22
Dry Edible Beans 2/	Cwt.	31.60	32.50	32.60	26.10	16.40	16.30
All Potatoes 4/	Cwt.	19.00	19.80	18.20	7.34	6.67	6.53
Winter	Cwt.	23.60	26.10	26.00	---	---	---
Spring	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Summer	Cwt.	---	---	---	---	---	---
Fall	Cwt.	8.40	8.70	8.70	---	---	---
All Hay, Baled	Ton	119.00	98.00	96.00	91.70	92.90	91.80
Alfalfa Hay, Baled	Ton	122.00	99.00	98.00	100.00	97.60	96.40
Other Hay, Baled	Ton	104.00	90.00	86.00	71.90	79.60	79.40
Upland Cotton Lint 2/	Lb.	3/	3/	3/	0.280	0.440	0.448
Cottonseed	Ton	137.00	130.00	130.00	104.00	105.00	111.00

1/ The estimated prices shown in the table represent composite average prices received by farmers. They are averages for all grades, classes, and methods of sale of each commodity for the State and U.S. as a whole. 2/ Previous month revised to monthly average. 3/ Not published to avoid possible disclosure.

4/ Monthly average.

INDEX NUMBER OF PRICES RECEIVED AND PRICES PAID BY FARMERS, UNITED STATES

Index	1910-14 = 100			1990-92 = 100		
	Feb. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003	Feb. 2002	Jan. 2003	Feb. 2003
Prices Received - Unadjusted						
All Farm Products	628	632 1/	630	99	99	99
All Crops	501	507 1/	510	102	103 1/	103
Food Grains	270	368 1/	336	85	116 1/	106
Feed Grains and Hay	325	375 1/	381	91	105 1/	107
Cotton	237	372 1/	379	46	73 1/	74
Potatoes and Dry Edible Beans	666	549 1/	547	132	108 1/	108
Prices Paid by Farmers for Commodities, Services, Interest, Taxes and Wage Rates 2/	1,631	1,687 1/	1,693	123	127 1/	127
Parity Ratio 3/	39	37 1/	37	80	78 1/	78

1/ Revised. 2/ All production indexes as of 15th of month. 3/ Ratio of Index of Prices Received by Farmers to Index of Prices Paid, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS

Fall potatoes in California storage facilities totaled 1.00 million cwt., as of March 1, 2003, 67 percent more than a year ago.

California's March 1 stocks were 22 percent of the fall potato production, and a 48 percent decrease from last year's 42 percent.

FALL POTATO PRODUCTION AND MARCH 1 STOCKS BY STATE 1/

State	Crop of 2001			Crop of 2002		
	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2002	Percent of Production	Production	Total Stocks Mar. 1, 2003	Percent of Production
	1,000 Cwt.			1,000 Cwt.		
California	1,424	600	42	4,450	1,000	22
Colorado	21,357	9,400	44	27,885	12,700	46
Idaho	120,200	58,000	48	133,385	62,000	46
Maine	16,430	7,100	43	16,960	8,000	47
Michigan	13,950	3,200	23	13,878	4,300	31
Minnesota	18,425	7,900	43	18,700	7,400	40
Montana	3,296	2,460	75	3,224	2,800	87
Nebraska	8,400	2/	2/	8,611	2/	2/
New York	5,942	600	10	5,500	550	10
North Dakota	26,400	12,300	47	23,460	9,300	40
Ohio	1,097	2/	2/	1,008	2/	2/
Oregon	20,730	11,500	55	24,936	9,900	40
Pennsylvania	3,173	600	19	2,590	500	19
Washington	94,400	32,500	34	95,200	33,000	35
Wisconsin	31,955	10,000	31	31,125	9,500	31
Other States	---	2,430	---	---	2,950	---
15-STATE TOTAL	387,179	158,590	41	410,912	163,900	40

1/ Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant 2003 crop. Seed usage in 2002 totaled 29.3 million cwt. 2/ Combined into "Other States."

CALIFORNIA FIELD CROPS YIELD AND PRODUCTION HISTORY

CROP	UNIT	YIELD				PRODUCTION			
		2001	2002	Record High	Record Year	2001	2002	Record High	Record Year
Barley	Tons	1.27	1.63	1.68	1995	139,920	122,400	1,996,896	1957
Beans, Dry	Cwt.	17.60	19.80	22.70	1997	1,496,000	1,762,000	4,109,000	1955
Corn for Grain	Tons	4.76	4.76	4.76	94/99/00/01/02	761,600	714,000	1,428,000	1984
Cotton, Upland Lint	1/	1,359.00	1,439.00	1,439.00	2002	1,770,000	1,430,000	3,535,000	1981
Cottonseed	Tons	--	--	--	--	849,000	720,000	1,445,000	1981
Hay, All	Tons	5.79	5.85	5.85	2002	8,915,000	9,594,000	9,594,000	2002
Alfalfa	Tons	7.20	7.10	7.20	1997/2001	7,272,000	8,094,000	8,094,000	2002
Other	Tons	3.10	3.00	3.50	1995	1,643,000	1,500,000	1,855,000	1995
Oats	Tons	0.96	1.28	1.36	1995/1999	14,400	34,560	121,312	1957
Potatoes, All	Cwt.	367.00	394.00	394.00	2002	13,099,000	17,695,000	35,166,000	1966
Rice	Cwt.	81.70	81.40	85.00	1992/94	38,490,000	42,989,000	43,585,000	2000
Sugar Beets	Tons	35.70	38.00	38.00	2002	1,596,000	1,862,000	9,031,000	1972
Sweet Potatoes	Cwt.	230.00	235.00	250.00	2000	2,300,000	2,444,000	2,625,000	2000
Wheat, All	Tons	2.28	2.42	2.53	1988	1,053,150	945,000	3,166,350	1981

1/ Yield in pounds, production in bales.